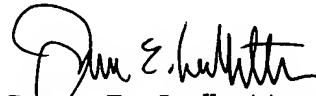


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment eliminates the multiple dependent claim status of claims 3-6, 8 and 11 in order to avoid the multiple dependent claim surcharge. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10 and 12 are also amended in view of U.S. practice.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter  
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Date: March 29, 2005

JEL/spp

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